



## Planning, scheduling software to improve operations

*by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate*

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate recently awarded a \$2,999,600 contract to SRI International of Menlo Park, Calif., for research that will improve planning operations.

The three-year agreement, “Plan Authoring System Based on Sketches, Advice and Templates,” is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency of Arlington, Va.

“SRI will be providing planning and scheduling software tailored toward limited missions such as special operations,” said James F. Reilly, program manager in the directorate’s

Information Technology Division. “We will focus on user-centric planning tools that augment the skills of human planners.”

The research will support DARPA’s Active Templates (AcT) program, which has a goal to develop revolutionary software technology to assist in the automation of time-critical planning and execution for limited military operations. AcT technology is expected to increase planning speed by six times and quadruple the problem-solving time ration. It will also result in the ability to reduce the size of a required planning staff by more than 50 percent. @